

## Sustainability...

### What it'll get you!

- Long-term investment in your community... by keeping dollars circulating in your local economy, creating and retaining "green" jobs, and making your economy more resilient.  

- Resolution of multiple local government issues at one time (road congestion, air pollution, energy stability, waste management).  

- Public utility service to more customers as each household and business begins to consume less energy and water, and produce less waste.  

- Access to a new pool of grant and loan funds that are specifically aimed for sustainability projects.

CoolCalifornia.org

### The Local Government Toolkit—*Planning and Cost Saving Actions*—

Sustainable practices such as lowering your energy and fuel needs are just some of the ways to make your municipal operations more cost effective. The CoolCalifornia.org web site contains a Local Government Toolkit, with a diverse set of cost-saving actions, financial resources, and case-studies to help your agency to become more sustainable and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

**Get started with the least cost and easy to implement actions—then go a step farther.**

Other benefits that sustainable local governments enjoy include increased worker satisfaction and more productive employees. Show your community you care about them by demonstrating a commitment to a healthier, cleaner, happier future.

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For more information about greenhouse gas emission reductions, check out the Local Government Toolkit at [www.CoolCalifornia.org/local-government](http://www.CoolCalifornia.org/local-government).



# Sustainability: What's in it for Local Government?

California Environmental Protection Agency  
**AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

[www.arb.ca.gov/climatechange](http://www.arb.ca.gov/climatechange)

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## Local Government... Lead by Example

Each city and county can make simple, no cost changes to their municipal operations that will produce immediate benefits. By taking action to conserve energy, fuel, water and materials, you



will be able to do more with less, ultimately increasing financial flexibility in tough budget times. Taking these steps also

demonstrates to businesses and residents how they can join in the effort to make their community more sustainable!

## Take It To The Next Level

Local government planning and policy decisions can also influence more sustainable practices in the residential and commercial sectors. Through climate action planning, improved permit processes, adoption of local ordinances, and outreach and education efforts, your city/county can foster increased community-wide sustainability. The end result is a more desirable, livable community!

For ideas see  
[CoolCalifornia.org](http://CoolCalifornia.org)



## No or Low Cost Changes You Can Make Right Now

### Save energy...

- Turn off lights and unplug equipment when not in use.
- Tune up heating and cooling systems and perform routine maintenance.
- Improve energy efficiency—replace standard lighting with high efficiency bulbs (CFL/LED).



### Drive less and drive clean...



- Adopt employee telecommute and flex schedule programs.
- Conduct routine vehicle maintenance.
- Transition the vehicle fleet to efficient, alternative fuel options.

### Recycle and cut waste...

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- Reduce paper use, create a recycling culture, educate employees and aim for “zero waste.”

### Buy and build green...

- Use certified products that comply with Environmentally Preferable Product Standards.

### Save water...

- Install water-efficient fixtures and native/drought-tolerant landscapes.



## Plan for Long-Term Sustainability

Actions like these are a first step toward a community-wide plan for sustainability, which is the key to long-term investment and savings. Additional steps to maximize local government sustainability are:

- Identify existing sustainable policies, programs and actions in your community that you can build upon.
- Participate in regional planning efforts, such as Blueprint Planning and developing Sustainable Communities Strategies.
- Identify your energy and fuel consumption, and conservation opportunities, by conducting a greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
- Develop and adopt a Sustainability/Climate Action Plan that sets sustainability targets, including a GHG emissions reduction goal with longer term improvement objectives.
- Implement sustainability policies and measures.
- Educate and promote your efforts within your community, to residents, businesses, regional governments and other associations.



Visit: [www.CoolCalifornia.org](http://www.CoolCalifornia.org)